Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks, invalidated out of service, are covered under the Army Group Insurance Scheme for insurance amount ranging from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 4 lakhs in the case of Officers and Rs. 37,500 to Rs. 1,87,500 in the case of Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks, depending upon the level of disability.

The Armed Forces personnel boarded out of service due to injuries sustained in Kargil operation have been given *ex-gratia* grant from National Defence Fund, ranging from Rs. 3.0 lakhs to Rs. 6.0 lakhs, depending upon the level of injuries on completion of necessary procedural requirements. They have also been granted Rs. 5 lakhs from this fund for acquiring a dwelling unit for making addition/alterations/renovation of the existing units.

Information about the number of war disabled who have been benefited from the various schemes is not centrally monitored.

Indo-US Military Cooperation

4164. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in the 'Hindu' dated the 20th July, 2001, a new structure of military cooperation between the India and USA would be put in place by the year-end;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any formal communication from the U. S. Government has been received in this regard and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) During the visit of the External Affairs Minister/ Raksha Mantri to USA in April 2001, the U.S. side expressed its commitment to further improving relations between India and USA including in the area of defence cooperation. India has also expressed its readiness to proceed with certain initiatives proposed by the U. S. The details of the structure of the institutional framework for defence cooperation remains to be finalised for which formal proposal would be sent by the US Government.